

Partial Listing.



US006012834A

**United States Patent** [19]  
**Dueck et al.**

[11] **Patent Number:** **6,012,834**  
[45] **Date of Patent:** **Jan. 11, 2000**

[54] **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR  
AUTOMATIC SELF-ADAPTING CONTROL  
OF SALES AND ADJUSTMENT OF PRICES  
TO MARKET MOVEMENTS IN AN  
AUTOMATIC VENDING MACHINE**

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[21] **Appl. No.:** **08/982,796**

[22] **Filed:** **Dec. 2, 1997**

[30] **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Feb. 12, 1997 [DE] Germany ..... 197 05 245

[51] **Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup>** ..... **G06F 17/60**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **364/479.08; 364/479.01;  
705/20**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... **705/1, 10, 20-22,  
705/25-29, 409; 364/479.07, 479.14, 479.08;  
235/381**

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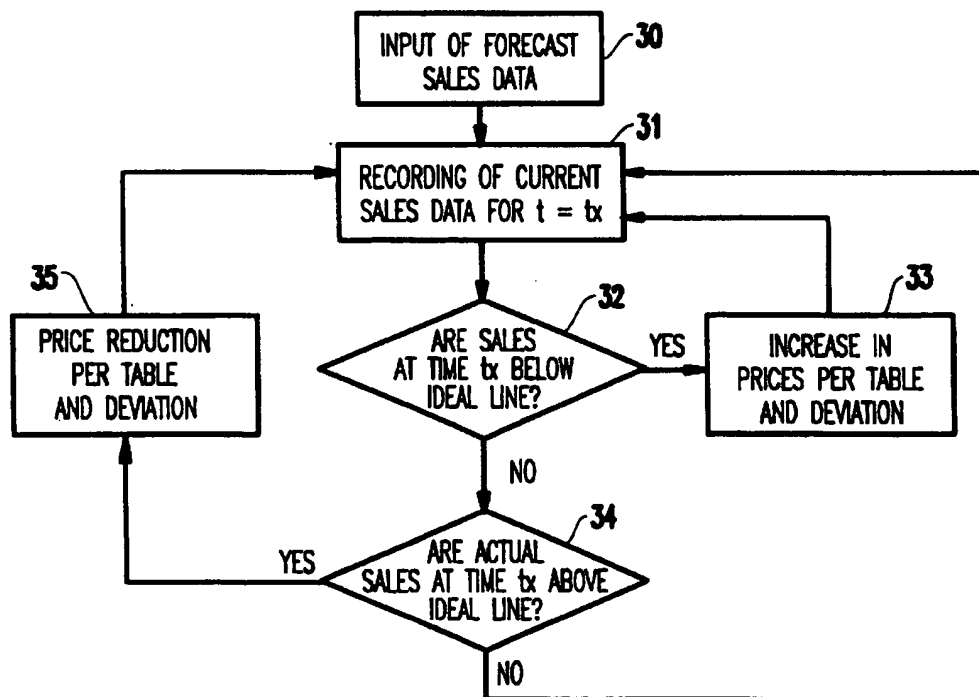
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A description is given of an electronic auction machine, which reacts to changing sales conditions with appropriately adjusted machine prices. For existing automatic vending machines restocking is based upon very vague experience figures and in particular customary fluctuations in sales are not taken into consideration. With the proposed machine, using a computer current market data are recorded (31) and using these data the current market situation is automatically assessed (32,34). A corresponding updated machine price (33,35) is then displayed.

**20 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets**



US-PAT-NO: 6012834

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6012834 A

TITLE: Apparatus and method for automatic self-adapting control of sales and adjustment of prices to market movements in an automatic vending machine

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Abstract Text - ABTX (1):

A description is given of an electronic auction machine, which reacts to changing sales conditions with appropriately adjusted machine prices. For existing automatic vending machines restocking is based upon very vague experience figures and in particular customary fluctuations in sales are not taken into consideration. With the proposed machine, using a computer current market data are recorded (31) and using these data the current market situation is automatically assessed (32,34). A corresponding updated machine price (33,35) is then displayed.

TITLE - TI (1):

Apparatus and method for automatic self-adapting control of sales and adjustment of prices to market movements in an automatic vending machine